



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative David Cook (R-8)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007-2844

Thursday, March 23, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representative Cook Sends Letter to U.S. Senator Jeff Flake Urging Him to Delist Mexican Gray Wolf

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative David Cook (R-8) sent a letter to U.S. Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ) asking him to continue his efforts to delist the Mexican gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act.

Senator Flake has worked to [find solutions](#) to manage the Mexican Gray Wolf Reintroduction Program including his most recent introduction of the [Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Plan Act](#) and has introduced amendments to delist the wolf in the past.

“Cattle ranchers have been severely impacted by the program, along with sportsman’s groups and local citizens who are forced to live with this protected predator,” said Representative Cook. **“It is time to delist the Mexican gray wolf and end this program.”**

A copy of the letter can be found here:

<http://www.azleg.gov/press/house/53Leg/1R/170321MexicanWolfDelisting.pdf>

Text of the letter can be found below.

March 20, 2017

*The Honorable Senator Jeff Flake
Senate Russell Office Building 413
Washington, D.C. 20510*

RE: Mexican Wolf Delisting

Dear Senator Flake:

The Mexican Gray Wolf Reintroduction Program has been a failed science experiment since its inception in 1998. The count from this year is 113 wolves after 19 years and millions of taxpayers' dollars spent. The 1982 Recovery Plan called for 100 wolves to be reintroduced in Arizona and New Mexico, and it is clear that we have reached that number. Cattle ranchers have been severely impacted by the program along with sportsman's groups and local citizens who are forced to live with this protected predator. It is time to pull the plug on this cruel science experiment before it goes any further.

I am requesting that you sponsor legislation to permanently delist the Mexican Gray Wolf and remove the United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) from this program. I have full confidence that our Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) can properly manage the wolf without the involvement of the USFWS. It is critical that you introduce legislation quickly for delisting, as we have seen populations in other areas of the country sky rocket and then have to rely on congressional action and litigation.

The Mexican Wolf Recovery Program continues to cost taxpayers millions of dollars, although it has met the 1982 Recovery Plan goal of 100 wolves. It is time to delist the program and allow the state to manage the wolf. The USFWS lacks the leadership and cooperation to work with ranchers and citizens to make the program viable. Delisting is the only option we have to return control to the states and end this program.

On behalf of the ranching community and the citizens that live in the recovery area, I am asking you to introduce legislation during this Congressional session that will delist the Mexican Wolf and end this program. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*David L. Cook
Representative, LD 8
DC:fm*

*c.c. Bas Aja, Arizona Cattlemen's Association
Patrick Bray, Arizona Cattlemen's Association*

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